



PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS



THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE FOUND AT

<http://pa-legion.com/programs/student-programs/>

1. **ESSAY CONTEST*** Open to any student in grades 9th-12th who is enrolled in a Pennsylvania school. Essay is between 500-1,000 words on a topic chosen by the committee.
1st-\$3,500.00, 2nd-\$3,000.00 and 3rd-\$2,500.00 places awarded.
2. **ORATORICAL CONTEST*** Open to any student in grades 9th-12th who is enrolled in a Pennsylvania school. Consists of two parts, one a memorized oration and an extemporaneous oration on an assigned topic.
1st-\$7,500.00, 2nd-\$5,000.00 and 3rd-\$4,000.00 places awarded.
3. **SEBASTIANELLI DRUM CORPS SCHOLARSHIP*** Open to any senior who is child/grandchild of a Pennsylvania Legionnaire living or deceased. The student must be a member of a high school band and is going on to higher education with a major in music. Winner receives \$500.00.
4. **JOSEPH P. GAVENONIS SCHOLARSHIP*** Open to any Pennsylvania high school senior who is child/grandchild of a Pennsylvania Legionnaire. The student needs to be seeking a four year degree in a Pennsylvania college or university.
5. **ROBERT W. VALIMONT ENDOWMENT*** Open to any Pennsylvania high school senior who is child/grandchild of a Pennsylvania Legionnaire. The student needs to be seeking a two year career, oriented education or training in a less-than-four-year program in a Pennsylvania school.
6. **ROBERT TRACE ESSAY CONTEST*** Open to students 15-18 years of age who is child or grandchild of a Pennsylvania Legionnaire living or deceased or child of a Pennsylvania soldier killed as a result of war on terrorism. Complete a 300-500 word essay on the topic "Patriotism and Citizenship - What America means to me". Winner receives \$500.00.

THE NEXT TWO ARE WEEK LONG CAMPS WITH THE POSSIBILITY TO EARN SCHOLARSHIP MONEY.

1. **KEYSTONE BOYS STATE*** Open to any male student who has completed their junior year and resides in Pennsylvania. KBS students practice and operate fictitious cities, four counties and one state, based on the statutes and codes of the State of Pennsylvania. About the 3rd full week of June @ Shippensburg Univ. Local Legion posts will sponsor the students to attend. Four scholarships are available to those that complete the week, each is \$1000. There is a Keystone Girls State. For Girls State, contact an auxiliary unit.
2. **STATE POLICE YOUTH WEEK*** Open to any male or female student who is 15-17 years old and resides in Pennsylvania. The student should be in good health and physically fit. This camp is run like a boot camp to introduce students interested in law enforcement or a branch of the armed forces. Cadets march in platoons, do physical training and have instructional time. Held about the second full week of June @ York College of Pennsylvania. Local Legion posts will sponsor the student to attend. Three scholarships are available to those who complete the week, each is \$1000.

* please see individual applications/brochures for complete rules, instructions and more information.

As American Legionnaires, we fully believe that education is the cornerstone upon which the future of America is built. Education becomes the first requisite of good citizenship and the relationship of The American Legion to Pennsylvania citizens is of prime importance as a means of keeping us a free civilization.

Our approach to supporting solid educational principles is direct and positive. We agree with the current PA Department of Education Initiative of "writing across the curriculum" and reward the efforts of involved students through our annual essay scholarship program.

Through the annual Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Essay scholarship contest, students are provided an opportunity to show case their talents and abilities in English by using originality, accuracy and research as evidence, while learning that the responsibilities and duties of good citizenship can be both rewarding and fun.

Since the inception of the Department of Pennsylvania state Essay Contest in 1935, The American Legion has awarded well over \$500,000 in scholarships, while local American Legion Posts, counties, Districts and Sections have also offered suitable awards and prizes for their respective best essay winners as well.

For more information on participating in the Department of Pennsylvania's American Legion Essay Contest, visit <https://pa-legion.com/programs/student-and-youth/essay-program/>

The American Legion Essay Committee

Chairman: James Fulton, Sr.
816 Greenfield Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
(412) 216-4083
jfulton65@yahoo.com

Sectional Vice Chairmen:

East: Darryl Johnson, 16 Charles Pt
Newark, DE 19702 (215) 881-8135
darrjohnson48@gmail.com

West: Ken Vybiral, Sr, 2439 Arlington St,
Pittsburgh, PA 15209 (412) 716-5568
malkiv@aol.com

Central: John Minlto, 705 Quaker Cir, Apt 1
Lewisberry, PA 17339 (717) 576-1728
jminlto@ptd.net

POSTS

*If HAVE county representation please
Call your County Commander for the winner
to move to the next level. (As listed in the
current American Legion Directory).*

*If NO county representation please
Call your District Essay Chairperson for the
winner to move to the next level. (As listed
in the current American Legion Directory).*

*If anyone has any questions or concerns
about rules or procedures PLEASE
Call the Essay Chairman or another
Committee member listed above.*

*Bridges Post 641
271 State STREET
Bridges Pa 15005*



**"WHAT DOES AMERICANISM
MEAN TO ME?"**

2023

**PENNSYLVANIA
AMERICAN LEGION**

88TH ANNUAL

ESSAY CONTEST
FOR GRADES 9-12

**The American Legion
Department of Pennsylvania
PO Box 2324
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2324
(717) 730-9100
www.pa-legion.com**

2023 ESSAY CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

"WHAT DOES AMERICANISM MEAN TO ME?"

Any student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in a public, private or parochial, cyber school or who is home schooled in Pennsylvania is eligible to participate.

Students **MUST** prepare essays without assistance and provide a statement to that effect on the last page. (See winning essay's sample)

All essays **MUST** have a **COVER PAGE** containing the following:

- The Essay Title (As stated above **WITH NO CHANGES**),
- Student's Name, address, telephone, & email address (if applicable),
- School Name and Address if applicable,
- Teacher's verification of Student's Grade Level,
- Sponsoring American Legion Post Number & address,
- Parent or guardian's name, address and phone number,
- Student's signature.

ALL essays (typewritten preferred but not required) **MUST** be no less than 500 words and no more than 1,000 words.

The title **MUST** appear on all pages of the essay as well as the cover page.

Essays shall be judged on the following:

- Proper English structure.
- Accuracy.
- Extent of information.
- Originality - Any material not original must be cited in a bibliography for the information of the judges, stating publication, volume, page, date, publisher and author. Anything cited from the Internet must include a verifiable Internet address such as: <http://pa-legion.com/about/our-history/>

- No reference shall be made, for or against, any political candidate or political party affiliation.

DEADLINE DATES:

1. **BEFORE JANUARY 9, 2023** - STUDENTS must submit their Essays to a **LOCAL AMERICAN LEGION POST**. Each high school may select one (1) winner for each American Legion Post in their school district. To locate a post near you, go to www.legion.org & click on find a local post and enter your zip code.
2. **BEFORE JANUARY 20, 2023** - The American Legion Posts shall have selected and forwarded their winning essays to their **COUNTY Essay Chairperson**.

3. **BEFORE FEBRUARY 6, 2023** - **COUNTIES** shall have forwarded their winning essays to their appropriate **DISTRICT Essay Chairperson** (as listed in the current American Legion Directory).
4. **BEFORE FEBRUARY 27, 2023** - **DISTRICTS** shall have forwarded their winning essays to their **SECTIONAL Essay Vice Chairperson**.
5. **BEFORE MARCH 13, 2023** - each **SECTION** (East, Central, West) shall have selected and forwarded their winning essay to the Department Essay Chairperson.
6. The Department of Pennsylvania's Essay Program's top three winners will have been judged and selected by **MARCH 27, 2023**.

The Department of Pennsylvania will award the following prizes to those top three (3) winning Essays.

- **First Place Winner** will be awarded a \$3,500, a plaque and a trip to the PA American Legion Convention in July to read the winning essay to the assembled delegates.
- **The Second Place Winner** will receive \$3,000 and a plaque.
- **The Third Place Winner** will receive \$2,500 and a plaque.

Application Form
2023 High School
Oratorical Program
Deadline December 4, 2022

Student First Name _____
Student Middle Name _____
Student Last Name _____
Student Date of Birth _____
Parent/Guardian First Name _____
Parent/Guardian Middle Name _____
Parent/Guardian Last Name _____
Parent/Guardian Date of Birth _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____
High School _____
Grade _____
Sponsoring Post _____

I have read and understand the rules and regulations to participate in the Oratorical Program sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Pennsylvania. I have also read and understand the brochure prepared by The National American Legion and agree to abide by all rules and regulations of both the Department and the National Organization.

Signed _____
Date _____

Oratorical Program Committee

Department Commander: Craig A. Wilhelm
P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105
Department Adjutant: James "Woody" Hogan
P O Box 2324, Harrisburg, PA 17105
Department Oratorical Chairman:
Michael Cortes, 1903 W 8th St, PMB 284, Erie, PA
16505 (814) 954-0067
michael@michaelcortes.com

Sectional Oratorical Vice Chairmen

Eastern: John Kubitz, 158 Link Rd,
Fleetwood PA 19522 610-987-9670
jkfuster@comcast.net
Central: William Hathaway, 345 S 4th St,
Sunbury PA 17801 570-898-3632
whathaway3@gmail.com
Western: Valerie Caylor, 224 Dunn Blvd,
Erie PA 16507 979-571-4418
valcaylor571@gmail.com

AWARDS

Department Winner

\$7,500.00 scholarship, plaque and all-expense-paid trip to the Department of Pennsylvania State Convention to deliver his or her winning prepared oration, plus the opportunity to represent Pennsylvania at the National Contest and receive an additional \$2,000.00 scholarship from the National Organization.

Department First Runner-up

\$5,000.00 scholarship and plaque.

Second Runner-up

\$4,000.00 scholarship and plaque.

2023 HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



“A Constitutional
Speech Contest”

Rules and Regulations



PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN LEGION

www.pa-legion.com

(717) 730-9100

1. Any student entering the competition must be under the age of 20 years on the date of the National Contest.

2. The student must be presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, private or home school), commencing with grade nine and terminating with grade twelve, during the time of participation at any level of the Contest.

3. The student must either live in or attend school in Pennsylvania and can only compete in Pennsylvania.

4. **The student must submit an application to a local Post for sponsorship by December 4, 2022.** A local Post can be found at www.legion.org.

5. The contest will consist of two parts; an 8 to 10-minute memorized oration on some phase of the United States Constitution and a 3 to 5-minute oration on one of four "assigned topics" selected by the National Organization. These four topics can be found at www.legion.org/oratorical/topics.

6. The contestant may not use any notes, props, amplification or prompts during the oration.

7. A minimum of five judges will judge all contests at the District level and above. Local and County contests may use a minimum of three judges.

8. All contests at the District level and above shall conform with National Contest procedures, rules and regulations. The "assigned topics" shall be used at all levels of competition. National Contest rules can be found at www.legion.org.

9. Assigned Tabulators will review and tabulate the judges' score sheets. The Contest Chairman will verify the results and announce the contest winners.

10. The judges' score sheets, the tabulation forms and the timekeepers' cards all become the property of the Department of Pennsylvania Oratorical Committee.

11. Barring unforeseen circumstances, any student that enters the Oratorical program **must** be available to compete on the date of the Department Contest and **must** be available to compete at the National Contest from April 21-23, 2023 in Indianapolis, IN.

12. The Oratorical Committee has established the following dates **BY WHICH** the various contests **must be held, if required, and the winner's name and contact information sent to the next level of competition:** (Dates subject to change. Check with the appropriate competition level to confirm.)

Application to a local post no later than (NLT)
December 4, 2022

School or Post Contest NLT January 1, 2023

County Contest NLT January 15, 2023

District Contest NLT January 29, 2023

Sectional Contest NLT February 26, 2023

Department Contest ON March 11, 2023

National Contest from April 21 to 23, 2023

13. The Department Contest will be held in Harrisburg at 10:00 AM on Saturday, March 11, 2023. A banquet to honor the Department Contest competitors will be held on Friday evening, March 10, 2023.

14. The Department Contest in March will be under the direct supervision of the Oratorical Committee; final authority on all issues raised will remain with the Oratorical Committee.

15. The Department winner must be certified with National Headquarters no later than March 13, 2023, by 5pm. If for any reason the Department winner is unable to compete at the National Contest, the Department First Runner-up will be substituted, following approval by National.

16. Additional contest resources can be found at <https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

